

# DEATH OF HENRY MORTON

---

## The Distinguished Career of the Head of Stevens Institute.

---

He Gave to the Institution More Than  
\$145,000 for Various Purposes—  
His Work as a Scientist.

---

President Henry Morton of the Stevens Institute of Technology, and a scientist of world-wide reputation, died at 10 o'clock last evening at the private hospital, 33 East Thirty-third Street, where he underwent an operation about three weeks ago. He was a liberal patron of the sciences, and it is a matter of record that he gave \$145,000 to the great school of which he was the head, and is believed to have given many thousand dollars beside to the same institution for purposes which did not become public. He enjoyed the friendship and confidence of Andrew Carnegie, and it was largely through Dr. Morton's influence that the ironmaster recently erected the Carnegie Laboratory and then endowed it with \$100,000.

Prof. Morton was the son of the Rev. Dr. Henry Jackson Morton, for half a century rector of St. James's Protestant Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. He was born in this city Dec. 11, 1836, and was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1857, taking a post graduate course in chemistry. He then determined to study law, and with that end in view entered the offices of George M. Wharton in Philadelphia, but while in the midst of his studies he was offered the post of Instructor in Chemistry and Physics at the Protestant Episcopal Academy in Philadelphia. He accepted it, and had since devoted his life to scientific attainment.

In 1863 he became one of the founders of the Philadelphia Dental College and was its first Professor of Chemistry. At about the same time he delivered courses of lectures on light before the Franklin Institute which, because of their being brilliantly illustrated with unique and ingenious experiments, attracted wide attention at home and abroad.

In 1859 he published a translation of the text of the Rosetta Stone, and in 1868 was the chief of an expedition organized to observe and make photographic records of a total eclipse of the sun in Iowa. He was at that time resident Secretary of the Franklin Institute and editor of its journal, but he assumed the Presidency of Stevens when it was founded, in accordance with the will of Edwin A. Stevens, in 1870, selecting the original Faculty and holding his office without interruption until the day of his death. From 1878 to 1886 Dr. Morton was a member of the United States Lighthouse Board, and had been a member of the National Academy of Sciences since 1873.

He formulated the Stevens curriculum, which has had an important part in the success of the school. Ten years later he gave the institute a mechanical laboratory fitted with steam engines and tools at a cost of \$10,000. He purchased with his private fortune the apparatus for the study of applied electricity and guaranteed the salary of a professor in this comparatively new branch of science. In 1888 the Chair of Engineering Practice was established, and Dr. Morton donated \$10,000 toward its endowment. Four years later he swelled this gift with another of \$20,000 in 5 per cent. bonds for the same purpose.

In 1897, on the completion of Stevens's quarter century, Dr. Morton was honored with the degree of Doctor of Laws from Princeton University. He married in 1863 Miss Clara Whiting Dodge of this city, who died less than a year ago at their country home at Pine Hill, N. Y. Two sons survive them.